



REA News Update

Brownfields Bill Signed

Includes Role For The REA II

In October, Governor Davis signed into law SB 32 (Escutia), the California Land Environmental Restoration and Reuse Act. This law authorizes local governments to require the investigation and cleanup of idle or underutilized small parcels of contaminated urban property (Brownfields).

In this bill, the REA II is given a role in the assessment and investigation of these properties. The REA II along with certain other professionals, is included in the definition of "Qualified Person," as able to prepare the environmental documents and perform the activities required by this new statute.

The bill becomes effective on January 1, 2002, and provides that a local agency may issue a notice to the owner or operator of a property requiring that individual to provide the agency with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. An oversight agency (the Department of Toxic Substance Control or the Regional Water Quality

Control Board) will review the document. The owner or operator may be required to prepare a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment if the oversight agency, or the local agency in certain circumstances, determines from the Phase I that the property may be affected by a hazardous material release or the threat of a release.

The local agency is also authorized to initiate a remedial action if the owner or operator refuses to do so or fails to comply with an approved schedule for carrying out a site investigation or remedial action.

In instances where a local agency performs the assessment, investigation or remedial action, they are required to utilize a "Qualified Person" or perform the activity themselves.

An important component of this new law requires Cal/EPA and its constituent boards and departments to develop contaminant screening values for individuals to use in evaluating the risk from contaminants present at these Brownfields.



REA IIs are included in SB 32 to conduct Brownfields work

The bill text can be found at: www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Program Roundup

The REA program continues to register individuals to ensure that California businesses have sufficient qualified experts to conduct environmental assessment, investigation and remediation activities.

The Legislature continues to expand the authority of the REA II. The REA II has been included in Brownfields legislation as an individual qualified to conduct the investigation and remediation of these sites.

Extensive outreach efforts continue to publicize the REA listing service. Since the last newsletter we have provided information to several thousand individuals representing site owners or operators, businesses, school districts, attorneys, realtors, environmental agencies and environmental professionals. We continue to be contacted by individuals seeking qualified professionals, and we are able to refer these individuals to our website.

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Special points of interest:

- REA appointed to head USEPA Region IX
- Five-year renewals serve to ensure continued registrant expertise
- Web/E-mail newsletter coming
- REA program continues outreach efforts

Registrant Responsibilities

The REA program has received several questions and inquiries regarding the areas of professional practice for REAs, and how this differs from other professional licensing programs.

The REA registration is voluntary. This registration represents a certification that you have met all legislatively established requirements regarding education, employment and environmental experience. The evaluation conducted by the REA program is unique. Other professionals are not certified on the basis of the environmental standards established by the Legislature for the REA program.

With the REA registration also comes a responsibility. The REA statute and regulations specify that an REA is not permitted to perform activities outside the scope of their expertise. The REA is also not permitted to claim the privileges of being a registered geologist, professional

engineer, or the privileges of any other registration, certification or license unless holding that particular credential.

The practice of environmental assess-



The REA must act in a manner that protects health and safety.

ment, investigation and remediation encompasses an expansive field, and other professional registrations often comprise an important element of that work. Prior work products used in the development of a report must be fully cited.

An REA's report or opinion that includes, or is based upon new, original work performed by other professionals, must also include the signature and registration number of the other registered professional. Activities which are performed at a sub-professional or apprentice level, or are routine activities, do not require professional registration.

A joint letter between OEHHA and the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists can be found on our website.

Contact the REA program if you have questions concerning an REA's authority or responsibility.

The 5-year Renewal Application

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 19032(c) and 19034, require that all REAs apply for the renewal of their registration every five years following the date of initial registration.

The purpose of the renewal process is to assure that registrants have up-to-date and relevant experience and; therefore, continue to meet mandated program requirements. This information also assists

us in providing the public with the names of environmental professionals who have recent expertise available to assist with achieving and maintaining compliance with California's environmental regulations.

All REAs are accepted into the program for five years contingent upon payment of the annual registration fee. Five years from the date of original registration,

each registrant is mailed a new application form to complete. The renewal application form is available from our website. Each registrant will be notified approximately one month prior to their five-year anniversary to allow sufficient time to prepare their renewal.

A renewal fee is required for the review and processing of all renewal applications.

REA Named USEPA Region IX Administrator

Wayne Nastri was appointed Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 on October 8, 2001. Mr. Nastri is an active REA, first becoming an REA in 1991.

Mr. Nastri has long been active in public service, including activities in support of the REA program. He served as a member of the OEHHA Private Site Manager's Advisory Committee. In this capacity he was involved in the development of the REA II registration program.

Mr. Nastri also served on the DTSC External Affairs Advisory Committee, and was co-chair of the DTSC Site Mitigation Program's Brownfields subcommittee.

Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Nastri was President of Environmental Mediation, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, which he founded in 1995 in Newport Beach, California. Prior to that he directed the California office of The Jefferson Group, a government and public affairs firm.

He has been active on a variety of environmental issues over the last fifteen years and has held a number of positions within the environmental engineering and management field. He has worked on air, water, soil, and hazardous waste issues, and has extensive experience dealing with community groups. He has directed environmental negotiations with local, state and federal agencies, and participated in regulatory and legislative monitoring.

Californians Met the Energy Challenge This Summer; Fall and Winter Will Test Our Commitment

Congratulations and thanks to every Californian who contributed to the state's success in meeting the energy challenge this summer! Your commitment to conservation played a major role in preventing rolling blackouts.

This year, the REA program and other state offices significantly cut electricity use from January through the end of August compared to the same period in 2000. For example, in monitoring 37 of the state's largest office buildings covering nearly 12 million square feet, the Department of General Services has recorded an average 22.4 percent drop in electricity use. Despite hikes in utility rates, the state was still able to save more than \$800,000 in cities such as Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Van Nuys, and Riverside.

While the state has made extraordinary progress in bringing new power generation on line, the threat of shortages remains real. Conservation, both now and for the long term, will continue to be an important part of the strategy to keep the lights on.

Fall and winter months present challenges just as tough as the summer months. There are increased demands for power across the state for lighting, heating and other priorities. So we cannot let our guard down just because the seasons have changed.

Below are some practical cool weather tips from the Flex Your Power website that will help all of us continue to save power, save money and keep electricity flowing to all California communities.

Set Your thermostat to 68 degrees when you're home and 55 degrees at night, or off when you're away

Use Your Appliances Wisely

- Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- To help prevent electricity outages, **do not run large appliances** between 5 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes and always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle to allow dishes to air dry instead.



Inexpensive Energy Solutions

- Choose **Energy Star**® products. Purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs. They use a quarter of the energy and last five to ten times longer than conventional light bulbs.
- Reduce your hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120 degrees unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting.
- Replace furnace filters once a month. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Keep your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted.
- Install low-flow showerheads. You'll be surprised how much this simple device can cut your hot water costs.
- Wrap your hot water tank with jacket insulation. If your water heater is gas, be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered.

Eliminate Wasted Energy

- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they're not in use.
- Close the damper on your fireplace when you're not using it.
- Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it.

Check out www.flexyourpower.ca.gov for more information and ways to save money!

REA Website Changing

The REA program has added enhanced features to the program website. The foremost change is the addition of a search feature to find REAs. This feature is searchable by REA first and last name, company name, company location,

and area of expertise. Check your contact information to ensure that it is correct.

We will be adding additional features to the website including, updated publications, links to pertinent professional pub-

lications from other Cal/EPA boards and departments, forms for lodging complaints against the practice of an REA, and updated program policies. In short, major changes are underway, so look forward to our updated website!



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*Serving the needs of California through
identifying qualified environmental professionals*

Visit us on the web at:
www.rea.ca.gov

REA Program Outreach Efforts

A Benefit to All Registrants

REA program staff attend a variety of conferences. Conferences serve as our means to provide information to technical professionals, client groups, government agencies, and the general public about the REA program and registrant activities.

Our outreach efforts are intended to provide general information about the REA program, registrant activities and program resources available to the regulated community or individuals needing the services of an REA.

REA staff attended the following conferences and programs during the past year in an effort to apprise client groups and professionals of the availability of the REA registrant listing:

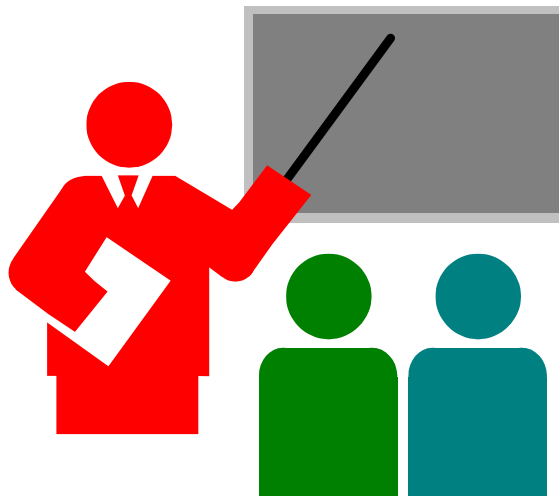
- Clean Air Technologies 2001 Hosted by: SCAQMD
- Continuing Challenge: A conference for emergency and first

responders

- California Association of Realtors Annual Conference
- California State Bar Conference and Convention
- In-situ and On-site Bioremediation Symposium Hosted by: Battelle
- League of California Cities

If registrants know of conferences or professional programs, where the attendance of REA staff may be beneficial to the program, contact our office, or have the conference organizer contact this office. Staff are also available to make presentations at the meetings of business organizations, professional societies, or other events where our participation may be beneficial to the REA program

We look forward to continuing our outreach efforts and meeting REAs attending events. If you attend conferences in the future, look for the REA booth. See you there!



REA staff continue to present information about the activities of REA registrants at numerous stakeholder conferences and conventions.